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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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In August 1950 there were about 200 United States prisoners of war packed into three rooms of the 18th People's Elementary School in West Pyongyang. No beds or bedding were furnished the prisoners. They were wearing their army fatigues uniforms, most of which were torn and ragged. Four of the prisoners had shoes; the shoes had been taken by North Korean troops. Instead they wore rubber shoes or straw sandals. Almost none of the prisoners had socks. The prisoners were fed three times a day, the meals consisting of one rice ball and a side dish such as kimchi or fish for each prisoner. Occasionally a small bowl of rice porridge replaced or supplemented the rice ball. Because of the inadequate food, most of the prisoners were weak and many were suffering from intestinal disorders and appeared to be dying. In spite of this fact, no medical care was given the prisoners. There was one civilian doctor in attendance, but he had only mercurochrome and iodine for cuts and scratches. No baths were given the prisoners, although on one occasion they were taken to the Tredong River for a swim at the request of the prisoners. None of the prisoners was of higher rank than major.

11. No work was assigned the prisoners in this camp, and there was no education program. An indoctrination program consisting of three hours of class per week using texts presented by the North Korean Labor Party was carried out. Labor Party officials also sent in propaganda booklets on Communism, such as the English editions of "You First" and other weekly magazines published by the Soviets, but the prisoners did not read them. The prisoners were told that the Americans had killed their fathers and that they had become laborers and slaves. The prisoners were told that the Americans were going to kill them and that the North Korean government was the only one opposing the American soldiers. The prisoners were told that the American soldiers were the only ones who were going to kill them.

7. About 24 August 1950 the national training station of the North Korean State

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Security Bureau held a round-table discussion for the prisoners. At the meeting the American prisoners presented a list of requests to the North Korean authorities, none of which were accepted. The requests were as follows:

Adequate food, including tomatoes, vegetables, and beans.

Adequate exercise.

Books to read

At the meeting one pilot said he did not need any propaganda books on Communism. He was immediately singled out by an Internal Affairs Ministry guard and called out of the room. North Korean army officers present believed he was then shot. About one-third of the prisoners at this camp were eventually shot.

4. The guards at the camp were in the charge of officers of the Internal Affairs Ministry. Because of language difficulties and the shouting of hatred which more of the Polish prisoners did than the other Polish camps, the guards quickly changed the hour of the roll call, and the other Polish prisoners attacked them. In this situation, the guards again did not know what to do, and the situation worsened. The guards then called the other prisoners, who quickly came and approached.

Interrogation of 1947

The interrogable staff at the West Pyongyang camp in August included a North Korean army captain, a lieutenant, and a major who acted as an interpreter. The major, formerly a college English instructor, had been called into service on 5 August 1950 when the North Korean government conscripted almost all educators and teachers, and was assigned to duty as an interpreter with the propaganda unit of the cultural training section of the North Korean State Security Bureau. Questions asked the prisoners included the following:

- a. Why did you join in the war?
- b. How did you come to do it?
- c. Did you not know that the current war began to unify the so-called democratic form of government?¹
- d. At what part did you leave?
- e. How are United Nations forces equipped? What is the type of equipment and company? Describe United Nations equipment, weapons, and the state of public peace in their areas.
- f. Who started the war? Do you know?
- g. What do you think about the North Korean invasion?
- h. About what do you think?
- i. What do you think about the war?
- j. Do you think that the war is necessary?

1 [REDACTED] advised. Changes will be made as soon as possible. The system
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